



MARAD Update



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Great Team for the Great Lakes

MARAD Joins Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

By Debbie Aheron, Office of Environmental Activities



On December 3, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois, in an unprecedented display of intergovernmental and multi-state collaboration, dozens of government officials and tribal representatives signed the Great Lakes Declaration, pledging to work together toward their common goal: protecting, restoring, and improving the ecosystem of the Great Lakes. Officials in attendance included members of President Bush's Cabinet and senior staff, members of Congress, Great Lakes governors, tribes, mayors, state senators and representatives. Officials also signed a framework document, which calls for these parties to, within one year, design a strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes now and into the future.

In May 2004, President George W. Bush called for the creation of "a regional collaboration of national significance." Groups signing the Great Lakes Declaration included the Federal Great Lakes Inter-agency Task Force, the Council of Great Lakes Governors, the Great Lakes Cities Initiative, Great Lakes Tribes, and the Great Lakes Governors Task Force. Together they moved to convene the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration; have developed priority areas that they feel are important, and the collaboration has adopted those areas and established strategy teams to address them."

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President Bush's Executive Order 13340 established a Great Lakes Interagency Task Force. MARAD's Great Lakes Region Director Doris J. Bautch, DOT's representative on the Great Lakes Regional Working Group, commented, "This is an important series of developments, and it's exciting that it's happening so quickly. The governors of the Great Lakes states have developed priority areas that they feel are important, and the collaboration has adopted those areas and established strategy teams to address them."



A Sea Lamprey, a species invasive to native fish of the Great Lakes

The Great Lakes constitute the largest freshwater system on earth, containing roughly 20 percent of the earth's fresh surface water. In addition to their natural beauty, the Great Lakes serve as a source of drinking water for more than 30 million people; support the culture and life ways of native communities; form the backbone for billions of dollars in shipping, trade, and fishing; and provide food and recreational opportunities for millions of American and Canadian citizens.

"This is the largest formal collaboration of its kind focused on the environmental and economic health of the Great Lakes Basin," commented Mike Leavitt, Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. "Today, we are committing our collective organizations to protecting and improving this national treasure."

MARAD is participating in the issue-area strategy teams related to invasive species and sustainable development. The invasive species team will focus on transportation-related issues related to the spread of invasive species and ballast water management. The sustainable development team will focus on



Industrial pollution on Lake Superior

transportation, land use, and preservation practices; waterfront restoration; and economic viability as a function of environmental and natural resources protection.

For more information on the GLRC, visit <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/collaboration/index.html>

Upcoming Events

Ship Operations Cooperative Program's First 2005 Conference

Sponsored by the Maritime Protective Service
March 8-10, 2005
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Contact Kim Rester at (202) 366-0364
www.socp.org

NCBFAA's 2005 Annual Conference

"Complying with Government Initiatives: Defining Our New Role"
March 13-17, 2005
San Diego, CA
www.ncbfaa.org

Navy League of the United States' 2005 Sea-Air-Space Expo

March 22-24, 2005
Washington, DC
www.navyleague.org

AAPA's Annual Spring Conference

Washington, DC
April 4-6, 2005
(703) 684-5700

If you know of an upcoming event you would like published in the *MARAD Update*, please submit it to Ella Thomas at ella.thomas@marad.dot.gov.

TS *State of Michigan* Conversion on the “Fourth Coast”

By Erhard Koehler, Office of Ship Operations

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) training ship *State of Michigan*, furnished to the Great Lakes Maritime Academy (GLMA) of Traverse City, Michigan, arrived at the Marinette Marine Corp. shipbuilding yard in Marinette, Wisconsin, in mid-December to begin a seven-month, \$3.9 million conversion project.

Beating the snow and ice by only a few days, the TS *State of Michigan* and her MARAD/GLMA project team settled in for several months of hurried activity to

transform the former 39-person Navy vessel into a 70-person public nautical schoolship, especially configured to meet the training needs of America's Great Lakes fleet.

When completed, the TS *State of Michigan* will boast newly renovated and expanded stateroom accommodations, new training and administrative spaces, and a reconfigured stern that will immediately distinguish her from the other 17 ships of her type and class. One of

the changes that won't be noticeable from the outside is a completely new wastewater treatment and management system that will allow the vessel to travel the lakes for up to one week with zero wastewater discharge. Finally, a few touches of tradition are being added, including recycled teak caprails and a classic raked pole mast with a yardarm and gaff that replaces what was, frankly, one of the ugliest tripods ever to grace a ship.



The State of Michigan, iced in at Marinette Marine Corp., January 2005. The new Staten Island ferryboat Spirit of America appears just forward of the State of Michigan.

All in all, the converted TS *State of Michigan* promises to be a worthy Great Lakes flagship for many years into the future.



As an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) mission is to strengthen the U.S. maritime transportation system—including infrastructure, industry, and labor—to meet the economic and security needs of the nation. MARAD programs promote the development and maintenance of an adequate, well-balanced United States merchant marine, sufficient to carry the nation's domestic waterborne commerce and a substantial portion of its waterborne foreign commerce, and capable of service as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency. MARAD also seeks to ensure that the United States maintains adequate shipbuilding and repair services, efficient ports, effective intermodal water- and land-transportation systems, and reserve shipping capacity for use in time of national emergency.



River Star Program Volunteers Nadine Miltier and Willie Barnes of MARAD's South Atlantic Region cleaning up Pescara Creek in Norfolk, the first wetland adopted by The Elizabeth River Project's River Stars Program

MARAD-SAR Recognized for Environmental Achievement

By Willie Barnes, South Atlantic Region

On January 20, 2005, MARAD's South Atlantic Region Office was recognized for its achievements in The Elizabeth River Project's River Stars Program. The mission of The Elizabeth River Project is to restore the Elizabeth River to the highest practical level of environmental quality through government, business, and community partnerships. The River Stars Program was created to encourage voluntary pollution prevention and wildlife habitat enhancement of the Elizabeth River, which is located in southeastern Virginia and one of the most industrialized waterways on the east coast.

Any individual, organization, business, or school in the Elizabeth River watershed can become a River Star. Participants start by signing a River Star commitment, pledging to pursue

at least one significant goal in wildlife habitat enhancement or pollution prevention.

MARAD is the first River Star to adopt an Elizabeth River Project wetland as part of meeting the habitat enhancement requirement for Achievement Level River Star status.

MARAD adopted Pescara Wetland located in Norfolk as its habitat site. Plans include restoring the walking path, planting native shrubs around the sign, creating an educational map for visitors, and conducting quarterly cleanups.

River Stars in 2004 reduced pollution by 10.5 million pounds. That did not include an additional 11 million pounds of material recycled. In addition, the River Stars documented the conservation or creation of 18 acres of wildlife habitat.

MARAD-SAR received an Achievement Level Award at the River Stars Recognition Luncheon in Portsmouth, Virginia. River Stars organizations are classified as Commitment Level, Achievement Level, and Model Level. The South Atlantic Level Office's goal is to advance to Model Level by 2007.

MARAD Update

The **MARAD Update** is published by the Maritime Administration's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs. This publication is available to all individuals regardless of age, race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. For more information or to submit questions or concerns, telephone (202) 366-5807, visit the MARAD website at www.marad.dot.gov, or e-mail pao.marad@marad.dot.gov.

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